

Live. Learn.Lead



Aldo Leopold Charter School *Weekly update*

September 1, 2020

(575) 538-2547

<http://www.aldocs.org/>
www.facebook.com/aldoleopoldhs

Welcome!

Hello new and returning families! This is the Weekly Update where we aim to inform you about what is going on at your child(ren)'s school. There are many places to go and people to see to get your questions answered. There is the [website](#) where you can find a [school calendar](#) for the year, [lunch menu](#), [middle school Friday adventure info](#), letter and schedule for high school [Community Orientation](#), how we are [governed and committee info](#), a [link to PowerSchool](#) (where your child(ren)'s grades and fees can be found), gallery of [YCC photos](#), and more. Checking your email (said with no sarcasm at all) where you are likely to find an invitation to get a weekly email about your child(ren)'s progress (or maybe lack of...) in their classes. You might even see an email from your child's teacher with answers to questions you didn't even know you had. Cathie and Andrea in the front office are like the federal repository of information! So if all else fails, give them a call (538-2547).

Reminders for parents

Remember in the old days when you brought your kid to school, or they got themselves there, and you didn't see them until you picked them back up or they showed up in your kitchen around 4:00? Those were the days, huh? Now the lines between home and school are really blurry. It used to be that we provided the space where school happened and most of the materials for learning. But now, **your home**

is your child's school, and a **critical material need is a computer and reliable internet service**-this is where we become a team. At home, please make sure your child is up in time for online class each morning. Please take time to make sure their device is working and that your internet can handle all family members' WiFi needs. If the device that your child is using is not adequate, **please contact the school and we can lend your child a chromebook** (if you already have one and it is giving your kid problems, we have more! Though we did get a couple of computers back and were told that the camera on each did not work. Come to find out that there was black tape over the camera.) There is **money available through the CARES Act to help families with their internet service**. If this is an issue for you, please **email our tech wizard Bart Brown (bbrown@aldocs.org)** and he will fill you in about how to access this service.

Online classroom manners

Mr. Cantrell wrote these up in the spring to reflect to students what their teachers and classmates were experiencing from some of them (we know these are not a reflection of *your* children). We thought they were worth sharing.

1. *Thou shalt show up.* It is school for crying out loud.
2. *Thou shalt be on time.* The six kids who were on time are tired of waiting for the rest of you to show up casually during what should be the first ten minutes of class! Think about it, you are late and you don't even have to leave your house!
3. Be sure to *mute yourself if your house has loud things going on.*
4. Don't just passively watch the lesson like you are watching TV. *Interact and take part in things. This is your learning* we are working on. Don't just sit and stare like a zombie.
5. Don't whip your hair back and forth or put on dance shows during lessons, or for extended periods of time, period. It is distracting.
6. **Show yourself; turn your camera on.** I know plenty of you would love to come to school with a box over your head and a hoodie pulled tight over your face. But it is hard for everyone else to interact with a dark rectangle with only your name on it. **Your teacher needs to see you** to understand how engaged you are. People need to see each other to be fully engaged. **Your friends need to see you!**
7. *Stay off your cell phone; don't play video games; cool it with the messaging!* You are in school! This is not the Dating Game! This is another reason to keep your camera on. **You are keeping yourself accountable. Be polite and thoughtful. Do not be a knucklehead.** (Your teachers are well aware of what many of you are doing when you turn your camera off.)
8. Don't turn off your camera, mute yourself, and then disappear somewhere else. We are on to your tricks, and it's pretty obvious to everyone else pretty quickly when you don't respond to direct questions.

9. Do not leave the meeting during lessons or before you are dismissed at the end. **You would not come and go as you please during lessons at school; use the same manners on zoom.**

10. Act like you are in a classroom. **Be polite, respectful and thoughtful.** Find ways to give rather than take away from everyone else's experience.

Get your stuff

In our new world, we need to get materials (books, art supplies, maps, rulers, dry erase boards, yoga mats, etc...) to students so that they can participate and get the most out of their classes. So far we have had three of these Material Pickups and many parents and students (so nice to see you all *in person!*) came to the school and got their bag of swag (if medals were being given out, it did *appear* that the 8th grade would have taken the top prize for participation. Maybe. The math is a little inconclusive, but we could just go with the anecdotal evidence.) Cathie and Andrea have been calling those who could not make it last Thursday, so feel free to come get these packages of knowledge any time (well...during school hours....)! Material pickup (if needed, your child's teacher(s) will let you and/or your child know if you need to come get stuff) is **Thursdays** at lunch from **11:45 - 12:15** and in the evening from **4:30 - 5:30**. Grab some lunch while you are there! If you can't make it during these times, you can always pick up materials on Friday from the front office. The expectation is that students will have these materials the following week for class.

Lunch Service

Lunch service has begun! So far we have had about 20 or so families come to the school to pick up the delicious and nutritious grab and go lunch made at Guadalupe Montessori School. We are located at Ritch Hall on the WNMU campus. Go up 10th street and just before you get to the library hang a right and go around the building. Happy people will be standing there with food for you.

Here's the menu for this week.

Mon. 8/31.....Fettuccine Alfredo, Roast Chicken & Veggies, Garden Salad, and Fruit

Tues. 9/1.....Bean & Cheese Tacos, Steamed Quinoa, Shredded Veggie Salad, Fruit

Wed. 9/2.....Burger on a Bun, French Fries, Cole Slaw, Lettuce, Tomato & Onion

Thurs. 9/3.....Spaghetti Bolognaise, Braised Seasonal Greens, Garlic Bread, Chef's Salad, and Fruit

Fri. 9/4.....No Lunch

Nursing Notes

Jim McIntosh is our school nurse. He is also the chair of the School Health Advisory Council (SHAC), and he teaches math, language arts, and U.S. Government and New Mexico History in the high school. He thoroughly researches all the information he gives to our school community about the latest important health related issues. Obviously the big one these days is Covid-19, so [his latest Nursing Notes](#) addresses some of the things about this pandemic that we are all dealing with.

Get out the vote!

WNMU Cultural Affairs is holding a voter registration drive **every Tuesday from 9AM-1PM outside Hunter Hall.** If you will be 18 by November 3, 2020, you are eligible to vote in the upcoming election. Hunter Hall is right across the street from Aldo! Couldn't be easier.

High School

Finding their place in it all

Community Orientation is for all the new students to the high school. So that means **all the 9th graders and any new students in the 10th, 11th, or 12th grades.** Pete (social studies teacher), Orien (elective teacher), and Nathan (special ed. teacher) are your guides on this journey of orienting yourself to how and why Aldo participates in our greater community. Until we are all free to roam about as we please and mingle in large groups, [this class](#) will be online, just like all the other classes at Aldo. After that [here](#) is what you can look forward to.

"We're cookin' here it's a stew, a jambalaya....if you will"

If you are lucky enough to have your kid in Alex Olsen's culinary arts class, you know that you are eating (or cooking with encouragement) better than you did before. If not, then here is some mouth-watering news from Alex about what her class has been up to:

Last week, following a few lessons on eggplant, ratatouille we watched the [majestic clip](#) from the Pixar film, "Ratatouille" in which the mean critic tastes that peasant dish that transports him to a tender moment in his childhood.

We talked about food and nostalgia. There were vivid memories of ginger bread and "grandma's lasagne." (I believe a student or two even wrangled parents into making their nostalgia food over the course of the week.) My own dish was "white pozole" which I made and taped.

Middle School

Reading the tea leaves

We noticed that students are cooked by Friday afternoon. So wanting to be sure students are at their best to engage in our experiential education program, we have changed our Friday schedule.

Schedule Change - the new schedule for Fridays is:

- **8:30 - 11:30** - Experiential Education with Advisory teachers.
- **11:30 - 1:00** Lunch & Movement Break
- **1:00 - 3:30** Teachers available for office hours. Students work independently on assignments and may meet with teachers if needed.

Speaking of Fridays....

To check out what we are doing on Fridays you can click [here](#) for a link to the page on the website that will explain all.

7th Grade

Ms. Chaney will be sending an email home every Friday to tell parents what is happening in math and science class. She is amaaaazing! And your kids are amaaaazing too! Heck, parents, you are amaaaazing!

During this fourth (!) week of learning, students are continuing to investigate scaled copies and drawings in math. They are identifying scale factors and corresponding parts in scaled figures. In science, we have focused on systems of the human body as we investigate how and why scientists use systems and system models to understand the complexity of our world. Students created models (drawings & more!) of a chosen human body system and worked through the features of this system - boundaries, components, interactions, inputs/outputs, and properties. From what I have seen so far, we have some very talented and creative artists and scientists!

Resources

- [Class Website](#) - Students took a “walk through” our class website as they completed an informing scavenger hunt. I invite you to take a walk through as well. You can find out information about our class and view awesome student work.
- [School Website](#) - If you haven’t checked out our school website, please do! This is a great resource of information - from what’s for lunch to governing council meetings to what we will be up to on Friday.

Goodbye Zoom, Hello Google Meets - for security purposes, we have changed our meeting platform from Zoom to Google Meets. This has had its ups and downs - some students seem to really like Google Meets better than Zoom and for others, it has been more difficult to connect. We are working through all of the technology issues and finding what is best for everyone. We can do this!

Roles & Responsibilities

As we all develop our roles in this new environment, we really are asking students to step up and be responsible for their learning. They are still learning and practicing this skill and we are here to support them. Please encourage your child to be aware of their assignments and their due dates and to use the tools available to them - like Google Classroom and their teachers!

Please reach out with any questions, comments or concerns.

Thank you for sharing your children - they make this all worth it.

Ms. Chaney

8th grade

+Jennifer merged language arts and social studies into one class called Humanities to accommodate our switch to Google Meets

+We are deep into the book *The Boys Who Challenged Hitler* by Phillip Hoose about a group of Danish teenagers who actively resisted the Nazi's occupation of their country

+This week students will start grading their own participation based on a rubric that Garrett and Jennifer introduced during class on Monday.

+Garrett continues to assess students' math abilities using Moby Max and Khan Academy.

Reminders

*With unstable internet and unpredictable computer behavior, students should always check google classroom for messages and instructions from teachers for possible changes to the schedule or expectations.

Do you like to read fantasy, mythology, science fiction?

Would you like to try writing some stories of your own?

Join the reading/writing club **Constellations!**

Work with professional writer, Sharman Apt Russell.

Meet with friends online and/or at the Gila Valley Library.



Register now!

Call Madge Slavec at 535-2602 or

Email: madgeslavec1@gmail.com

Subject: Constellations

The Gila Valley library will purchase the books the club chooses to read.

Our first meeting will be: September 23rd

2:00 p.m.

Gila Valley Library or a Zoom meeting